

## BIG HOTEL BURNS.

The Delevan House at Albany  
Destroyed by Fire.

Three Persons Jump from Third  
Story Windows.

TWO OF THEM MAY DIE

The Hotel Loss is Estimated at  
Half a Million.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The candidacy of the several men for speaker of the assembly received a startling baptism of fire here last night, for the Delevan house, that famous hostelry known from Maine to California, the mecca of politicians and the center of the big state political events for forty years, was completely destroyed. There were 100 guests in the house. All escaped, although two women and one man, who jumped from the third story windows into the street on the Steuben street side, were badly injured. Two of them may die. They are Mrs. H. E. Fookes, wife of the agent of the National Cash Register company of this city, formerly of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Fookes was badly burned, but will recover. His wife was internally injured and will die. Benjamin Bellman and his wife of Brooklyn, were on their wedding tour. Mr. Bellman was badly burned about the chest and internally injured. He will probably die. His wife is badly burned about the face, her nose is split open and she was cut on the ankle. She will recover.

The house was filled with politicians, who barely escaped with their lives, losing all their personal effects. It was 8:30 and the political headquarters of both Mr. Fish and Mr. Malloy were filled with politicians and newspaper men. State Factory Inspector Connelly, who had been in the lobby with a number of people, started to go up the elevator. He remarked that he smelled smoke and suggested an investigation. Before it could be begun there were cries of fire from different parts of the house simultaneously.

The outbreak of flames before an alarm could be given to arouse the inmates of the rooms was something appalling. Up the elevator shaft shot a solid column of flames and up the stair case near this shot another column. As the mass of white-hot flame reached each of the floors it branched out and it seemed as though the whole interior of the structure was a seething mass. Fortunately the guest list was not very large, and the majority of those registered were politicians and were down on the second floor, where Mr. Fish and Mr. Malloy had headquarters.

Although five stories high, there were no outside fire escapes and the only means left for the people in the cut-off rooms was to use the rope fire escapes.

Less than fifteen minutes after the fire started the entire structure was wrapped in flames. In twenty minutes the building resembled a seething crater and it was plain to the thousands of spectators who had gathered that it would be entirely destroyed. Edward Walsh, reporter, was caught in the hall. Before he could get out he was very badly burned and had to be taken to the hospital.

The department with nine streams of water pouring into the building could do absolutely nothing to stop the onslaught of the flames and the only way was to save the surrounding property. The hotel takes in the entire block, about 110x50 feet, and this was in fifteen minutes a cauldron only bound by the four walls. Of the two or more girls at that hotel, not one is known to have saved more than the clothes on their persons.

There are rumors that there are bodies in the ruins and that quite a number of people did not escape. The clerk says that he is positive all the guests escaped, but does not feel so sure about a help, of which there was a great number.

The Delevan house is fifty years old and is one of the most famous hotels in the country. It is a part of the estate of Edward C. Delevan. Harry & Moore, the proprietors, paid \$40,000 a year rental and lately had made vast improvements in expectation of a big winter season. The total loss is estimated at \$500,000, with an insurance of \$300,000.

**No More For Stamps Postage Stamps.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The opinion of the solicitor of the treasury to the effect that it is unlawful to have in possession or use plates for the printing of postage stamps in the similarity of those issued by foreign governments will be acted upon at once. No more so-called stamp albums containing these kind will be allowed to be printed. The cuts from which these are printed will be seized.

**No More Back Pay.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The three new senators who will be elected to fill the vacancies in the states of Wyoming, Washington and Montana, will probably not be paid the back salaries which have heretofore been paid to senators elected or appointed to fill vacancies. They were cut out by an express provision in the legislative appropriation bill of the last session which, it is believed, will put an end to this practice for the future.

**Another French Scandal.**  
PARIS, Dec. 31.—A judicial inquiry into the conduct of the old directors of the French Southern railway company has revealed another financial scandal. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of a number of contractors, bankers and politicians.

**Heavy Snow in the South.**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 31.—From six to eight inches of snow is reported in Middle and Western Tennessee, Arkansas, Northern Mississippi and Western Alabama, with a steady drop in temperature.

**Read the "Wants."** Many of them are as interesting as news items. See if it is not so.

## POPULIST DECLARATIONS.

Address to the Public, issued by the St. Louis Conference.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 31.—The national committee of the Populist party has issued the following address to the public, adopted by the national conference of Populist leaders:

The national committee of the People's party sends greetings to its constituency throughout the United States. The rapid increase of our vote in every part of the union and the startling events of the past two years vividly justify both the existence of and necessity for the People's party. The contention of the party that one of the great needs of this country has been and is an enlarged volume of circulating medium is now practically conceded by all parties and by the government. The gold power and banking interests are insisting through the president and his secretary that the large issue of our currency shall be given exclusively into the hands of the banks, that silver shall be excluded, all treasury notes retired and that gold alone shall be a legal tender, thus making the monetary question an issue which must be met at once. Within the present year the corporations, grown arrogant because of the vast possessions of wealth and the exercise of unconstitutional powers, have made war upon the people and induced the federal courts to exercise in their interests unusual and arbitrary powers, induced the invasion of the states by federal troops without the request of either of the executives of said states or the legislatures thereof, and are at this time, through a recent administration and a fraudulent congress, attempting to clothe the railroad corporations, by means of a pooling bill, with power to further and more systematically rob the public and plunder the people; and having already deprived the people of access to the silver mines of the country as an independent source of money supply, are now in the interest of a banking oligarchy endeavoring to deprive them of the right to have their government, in the exercise of its constitutional power, to issue the money of the nation and control its volume. In the opinion of your committee these events are startling subversive of the liberties of the citizen and destructive of business and social security.

Adhering to the Omaha platform in all its integrity, your committee insists upon the restoration of the coinage of gold and silver as it existed prior to 1873, the ratio of it to be 16 without regard to the action of any other nation, and that all paper money shall be issued by the general government, without the intervention of banks of issue, the same to be a full legal tender. We also declare our implacable hostility to the further issue of interest-bearing bonds. We denounce the pooling bill as a move toward completing the monopoly of transportation and demand that instead congress proceed to bring the railways under government ownership.

We ask the people to forget their past differences and unite with us in the common purpose to resume the government from the control of monopolies and concentrated wealth, to limit the power perpetuated by curtailing the privileges and to secure the rights of free speech, a free press and trial by jury—all rule and regulations and judicial diets of degradation of either of which are arbitrary, unconstitutional and not to be tolerated by a free people.

We recommend the immediate organization of an educational campaign by the national, state and local committees.

**May Contest Fair's Will.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 31.—It has been finally ascertained that since the publication of Senator Fair's will that there will be a contest unless such action should be construed as dangerous to the contestant by reason of the forfeiture clause in the will. Mrs. Charles L. Fair says that she has no reason to be dissatisfied with her father-in-law's provision for her husband. She said she did not marry young Fair for his money, and that they have been very happy without wealth.

**Frozen Oranges.**  
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 31.—Reports by wire from fifty-one correspondents in the orange districts of the state indicate that at least 1,500,000 boxes of unpicked oranges are frozen solid, and more than 300,000 boxes of oranges in warehouses or lying in bulk, preparatory to picking, are frozen. Tomatoes, cabbage, and all other vegetables in the northern half of the state are ruined, except the pineapple plantations, which are not much injured.

**Trains and Carriage Collides.**  
CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—A Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific passenger coach being rapidly switched into the Rock Island depot yesterday afternoon crashed into a carriage at the Pacific avenue and Harrison street crossing. Five persons were badly injured, the carriage demolished and one of the horses so badly injured that it had to be shot.

**Only Stole Ten Thousand.**  
HUDSON, N. Y., Dec. 31.—W. F. Rosman, Jr., bookkeeper of the National Hudson river bank of this city, was arrested last night on the charge of embezzling \$10,000. He confessed to taking the amount and said he had spent the money in stock speculation in wall street.

**Wrecked by Gas Explosion.**  
ELWOOD, Ind., Dec. 31.—The building in which Milo Zeis' barber shop and lodgings are located was wrecked yesterday by a natural gas explosion causing a loss of \$2,000 and badly injuring six persons.

**Father and Son Cremated.**  
NEWADA, Mich., Dec. 31.—Charles White and his 6-year-old son were cremated by the burning of their dwelling at 12 o'clock yesterday morning.

**Heavy Snow in Arkansas.**  
ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., Dec. 31.—The heaviest snow storm in years here has been raging all day, and about ten or twelve inches has fallen.

## IN BITTER DISTRESS.

Reports of the Keenest Suffering  
in Nebraska.

People Are Without Food and  
Proper Protection.

TWELVE ARE FROZEN.

More Sure to Perish from Hunger  
and Cold.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 31.—Dispatches from Western Nebraska received here tell of the destitution and distress prevailing among the inhabitants of the drought-stricken districts. A dispatch from Hastings says: "Terrible destitution exists in Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hayes, Hitchcock and Frontier counties and the worst of the feature is the people in several localities are afflicted with scurvy for want of wholesome food. The state relief committee find themselves unable to relieve all the people in distress, so great are the demands for aid. The railroad men report that since the cold snap no less than a dozen people have perished in the above counties in the past two days for want of food and fuel. Hundreds of families are without coal, and in the border counties, where no trees or brush exists, the poor people had a hard time to keep from freezing to death."

"In Perkins county the destitution is complete. Over 600 families are appealing for help. Near Lisbon the wife and two children of Settler Burns died for want of proper nourishment and clothing. In Kearney county the wife of one of the settlers gave birth to twins during the storm, and before the neighbors could reach her home the poor woman expired from want of sufficient food and attention. The twins are still living and in charge of charitable neighbors."

"Coal is most needed in the drought district and Mr. Ludden of the state relief commission and General Manager Heldridge of the Burlington and Missouri river are doing everything in their power to forward supplies and clothing to these localities. Very few of the farmers in the border counties have any stock left, having let their cattle and horses roam at large. Stock is being driven out of the state to prevent starvation. Corn planted in eight or ten of the western counties has been killed by the frost over six inches and contains no more nourishment than sage brush. People are leaving in covered wagons by the hundreds, rather than face starvation and freeze to death. One of the first acts of the legislature which convenes next Tuesday, will be to pass a bill for appropriation for the relief of sufferers. More or less destitution exists in every county from the Colorado line east to Hall and Adams counties, and the various relief committees are overwhelmed with appeals for aid."

Not a few reports: "It is a fact that there have been many cases of suffering and hunger among the drought sufferers in Lincoln and Logan counties. Many families have only potatoes and milk to live on now, with no hay or grain for their stock through the rest of the winter. The country in a short time will be unable to supply the increasing demands for the necessities of life. The overseers of the poor state that there are more calls already than the county can supply, and unless aid comes from the outside there will be many deaths from hunger and want of clothing this winter."

A dispatch from Curtis says: "Great distress prevails throughout this and surrounding counties, owing to crop failures of the past two seasons. Relief committees have been organized in almost every precinct and collectors sent East for aid, several loads of which have been received. This with what aid the county has been able to give, has alone prevented suffering among the people and stock. The outlook is extremely dark, owing to the scarcity of food and seed grain, the two articles now most needed. The state relief commission has fifty families on its list as worthy and needing assistance."

**Ex-Congressman Butler Located.**  
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 31.—Ex-Congressman William Butler of West Union, Iowa, was located here yesterday. In explanation of his sudden disappearance from home two months ago, he says that the morning of November 23 he awoke by hearing a train man call out Indianapolis. He says from the time he dismissed the school he was teaching in Iowa on November 23, until he arrived here, his mind was a perfect blank. He says he at once wrote to his wife, but the letter miscarried. Butler has been working here as a book agent trying to recoup his fortunes. He seems to be perfectly sane.

**A Big Undertaking.**  
DENVER, Col., Dec. 31.—The Clear Creek and Gold Mining and Water Power company has been organized by New York, Philadelphia and Colorado capitalists to wrest from the bed of Clear Creek for thirteen miles above Golden the vast accumulation of gold supposed to have been deposited there through the ages and to supply electrical power for the running of all sorts of machinery in Denver and elsewhere.

**The News Confirmed.**  
KLANATH FALLS, Ore., Dec. 31.—The latest news of the disastrous fire which occurred at Silver Lake Christmas eve comes by the Lakeview stage driver, who says all reports concerning the holocaust are correct and that one more body was found in the ruins.

**Weiner's Merchant Was Gamed.**  
ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 31.—As a result of an attack on a red-hot man last evening one tough was shot and killed and another fatally wounded.

**Leave Your Order**  
For a nobby suit with  
Oluf Ekberg, 716 Kansas avenue.

## BYRNES RESIGNS.

He Blames the Police Commissioners—  
Lexow Investigation Ended.

New York, Dec. 31.—At ten minutes to 9 o'clock Saturday night the Lexow committee adjourned subject to the call of the chair, thus closing a session of investigation which was brimful of startling revelations.

Just as he was through answering Mr. Goff's probing questions, Superintendent Byrnes handed a letter to Chairman Lexow and said it was a copy of one he had sent to Mayor-elect Strong early this month. It was his resignation from the force of which he had been a member for the last thirty-two years. The superintendent, he said, should have absolute charge of the discipline of the department, but that all his efforts in that direction were frustrated by the commission. The department was honeycombed with abuses, which had been growing for thirty years and they could be remedied by radical legislation. Local politics, he declared, were the curse of the department and as long as politics was a factor in the force, such a state of things would exist. He claimed to have done a good deal toward helping to bring about the exposures. He paid a tribute to Dr. Parkhurst, who, he said, manufactured public sentiment, without which it would have been impossible for the committee to acquire the information it did. His wealth, which he estimated at \$350,000, was made by speculation, he said, in Wall street, through the instrumentality of Jay Gould and his son George. His purchases of real estate were always very profitable, and he claimed not to have a bank account.

**MISSOURI LEGISLATURE.**  
The Speakership Race Warming Up—  
Six Candidates for Chief Clerk.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 31.—The fight over speaker of the house is becoming decidedly interesting. Channing I. Filley is up from St. Louis to take personal charge of the issue. B. F. Russell for speaker. The issue has been drawn between the Filley and the Filley factions with all the chances in favor of the former. It is now believed that Major Bittinger is out of the race and that he is trying to deliver his strength to J. H. Bothwell.

Jefferson City is now swarming with candidates for positions of one kind or another in the house. There are now six candidates in the field for chief clerk, ten for sergeant-at-arms and seven or eight for door-keeper, with a number of counties to hear from.

Governor Stone's message will be delivered to the assembly either Wednesday or Thursday. Aside from reference to the various departments of state and state institutions the message will deal principally with state finances. No radical changes will be suggested, it is said.

**Shot in a Gambling Den.**  
NORMAN, Ok., Dec. 31.—J. E. Gillenwater was shot by Will Briggs last night in a gambling hall over the Red Light saloon. The room bears evidence of a desperate struggle. Gillenwater's pockets had been rifled by bloody fingers and he had been robbed of \$250 and a gold watch and chain. He is yet alive, but can live but a few hours. Briggs escaped.

**Murdered at a Dance.**  
ARDMORE, Ind. Ter., Dec. 31.—At a dance near Cornish, several west from here, John Hamilton stabbed Tom Krebs with a knife, severing an artery, from which he bled to death in a few minutes. Krebs was well known here, being a member of the Indian police. Hamilton is still at large.

**St. Paul's Church Dedicated.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Archbishop Satholi and Cardinal Gibbons took part yesterday in the imposing ceremony attending the dedication of St. Paul's Catholic church. It is seldom that so many of the heads of the American church were brought together at a church event.

**Inventor of Bloomers Dead.**  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, Dec. 31.—Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, from whom the Bloomer costume, one of the first efforts toward dress reform, was named, died at her home in this city yesterday. She was also in her younger years a noted lecturer on temperance and woman's suffrage.

**Government Receipts for December.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The government receipts so far this month amount to \$21,122,902, and the disbursements \$27,052,783, leaving a deficit for the month of \$5,959,821, and for the fiscal year to date, \$28,254,963.

**Catcher McMahon Is Dead.**  
BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 31.—John McMahon, of the National Baseball league, died at his home in this city yesterday, aged 25 years. He was on the reserve list of the Washington club at the time of his death.

**Probably Blew Out the Gas.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—John Smith and his bride of a week were found in bed dead yesterday morning, asphyxiated by gas. It is presumed they failed to turn off the gas properly upon retiring.

**Murdered and Hobbied.**  
SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 31.—This community is highly excited over the brutal murder of A. H. L. Webber and his wife in their home, which was subsequently plundered by the murderers.

**Death of Hon. John Fitzgerald.**  
LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 31.—Hon. John Fitzgerald, ex-president of the Irish National League, and one of the most extensive railroad contractors in the country, died here yesterday.

**A Footless Dead.**  
LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Chronicle announces the death of Christina Georgiana Rossetti, the poetess.

**Chancellor Depew on Armenia.**  
NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Dr. Channey M. Depew last night delivered an address on "Armenian Atrocities."

## SECRET SOCIETIES.

MASONIC.

Beautiful Temples Perfected and Projected—  
Trusteeboard Designs.

That the order is increasing in numbers and prosperity is proved by the many new temples recently built and in course of erection in different parts of this country. The board of trustees of the Masonic association of Detroit has issued a statement showing that it has accumulated property valued at \$123,504, of which \$88,000 is real estate and \$35,504 cash. The new temple now in course of erection will cost, exclusive of furnishing, \$250,000. The

MASONIC TEMPLE, ORANGE, N. J.

The temple will be finished Jan. 1, 1896. The Masonic fraternity of Albany, composed of 13 lodges and 2,000 members, has decided to build an \$80,000 temple, with a prospect of completing it without going into debt. The recently completed temple of the fraternity in Orange, N. J., is a credit to the town and to the order.

The philosophy of Masonry is a good intellectual food, but it itself does not build Masonic homes or feed the hungry. Benjamin Franklin published in 1784 a collection of Masonic constitutions. This is said to be the first Masonic volume issued by the press of the United States.

The grand chapter of Texas has resolved not to acknowledge the jurisdiction and supremacy of the general grand chapter of the United States.

Bro. Campbell H. Johnson has resigned the superintendency of the Masonic home of Kentucky.

Oriental consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Chicago, will give receptions Jan. 30 and Feb. 31.

The lessons taught in Freemasonry are, when properly impressed upon the mind of the novice, never wholly eradicated or forgotten.

A serious trouble in the lodges of today is the anxiety to "make records" by breaking them. Too many candidates are permitted to enter through the inner door whose internal qualifications do not recommend them to Masonry.

Masons of Menominee, Mich., are talking of building a temple to cost \$50,000.

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.**

Good Showing of the Endowment Rank.  
Pittsboro, N. C.

During the three months beginning July 1, 94, sections of the endowment rank have been established, the grand domains of Illinois and South Dakota leading with 9 each, Virginia following with 7, North Dakota 6, and 5 each in Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. In Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Ohio the rank has also made satisfactory progress. Four new sections having been organized in each of these grand domains during the quarter. The applicants admitted number 1,511, and the certificates of endowment issued amount to \$2,609,000.

The first lodge to be named after P. S. C. George B. Shaw is located at Murfreesboro, Tenn. It has 22 members.

The interest earnings of the endowment rank are beginning to prove quite a factor in the revenues of the rank, the aggregate of which during the year 1894 will exceed \$15,000.

About 500 was the estimate of the number of Knights who took the obligation and witnessed the exemplification of the secret work of the Rathbone Sisters given while the grand temple of Missouri was in session.

Eligible General C. E. Bentley, commanding Pennsylvania troops, uniform rank, instituted the Childs-Drexel division at Philadelphia recently.

London (Ont.) lodges are all doing well and making rapid increase in membership.

**New England Order of Protection.**

The average time between the proof of death and the drawing of the draft has been two days, and between the date of death and date of draft 23 days, for the last ten deaths.

Only one assessment was called for December. The December roll had nine deaths, representing \$17,000.

The junior past supreme warden of the order, Hon. John Jay Whitple, has again been elected mayor of Brockton. This is the fourth time that he has thus been honored by his city.

T. F. Boylston, lodge of Springfield, Mo., had 44 applications in November.

Supreme Secretary Granville Cash has regained his health.

**Chosen Friends.**

Eureka, No. 1, of Iowa was instituted recently by Superintendent Eastman.

The fact that a Chosen Friend can pay assessments with cash from premium voucher earned is a strong argument to secure new members.

Grand Secretary Wallis of California reports gains and new councils.

Friend G. W. Callahan, S. R., has made an official visit to many councils in North and South Carolina.

Over \$9,000 was paid in December to living members by way of total disability benefits in addition to the amounts paid to the beneficiaries of deceased members.

**Home Circle.**

Supreme Leader Tompkins and Supreme Secretary Swain were recently tendered a reception by the combined Baltimore councils.

More applications are now being sent to Supreme Medical Examiner Waterman than he has received for many years so early in the season.

## AN EXCELLENT STORY.

But For Obvious Reasons Bangs Couldn't Think of It.

Every member of the Bangs family always tries to help every other member of the family. When one member of the family tries to tell a story, all the other 13 immediately take hold and tell him how to tell it. This mutual helpfulness is very beautiful.

"Did you hear that story about my dog Towser?" said Bangs to me one day.

"No, I never did," said I. "Let's hear it."

"Well, about the middle of last July," said Bangs—

"The last of July," interrupted Mrs. Bangs.

"The last of June," said Archibald Theodore Bangs, the eldest boy but four.

"Nearer the last of August," said Lucetta Perthesia Bangs, the eldest girl but five.

"Well, call it some time between 1819 and the present time, we can't tell just awfully anxious to hear the story."

"Well, we were just coming home from church," continued Mrs. Bangs.

"From the circus," interrupted Thaddeus Washington Bangs, the youngest boy but three.

"From the camp meeting," said Rosie Toddlers, next to the baby. "I remember it coz I tired my dress."

"Warn't comin' home at all," said Tom Aristotle Bangs. "We were just startin' out for the beach."

"Well, let us decide," said I, "that we were all somewhere, we can't tell just where exactly, but somewhere between the cradle and the grave. You've no idea how anxious I am to hear the story. Go on, Mr. Bangs."

"Well," said Mr. Bangs, "it rained."

"Snowed," said Mrs. Bangs.

"Halted," said Archibald Theodore.

"Delayed," said the twins in concert.

"Well, I am willing to admit," said I, "that it rained, snowed, halted, drizzled, and that we had an earthquake, an avalanche, a tornado and a landslide at the same time. I will admit any weather from freezing to the boiling point if I can only hear that story. I am eaten up with curiosity. Please go on."

"All right," said Mr. Bangs. "What was I talking about?"

"Dunno," said Thaddeus Washington.

"Dog," said Rosie Toddlers.

"Call," said Tom Aristotle.

"Elafant," said Bobbie Bangs.

"Whale," said the twins.

"Hadt't begun to talk at all," said Lucetta Perthesia.

"Only just begun to 'spue,'" said Bobbie.

"It's an excellent story," said Bangs.

"You'd spit yourself with laughing, but I can't think of it just now."—New York World.

**Habit.**

Take a young man who has been living civilized all through his youth and compel him to subsist on restaurant fare for two or three years, and you make him a dyspeptic, a hopeless martyr or a married man.

He becomes so accustomed to reading the column beginning "small steak, sirloin steak, extra sirloin," etc., and ending with "squal," which is always out, that when he gets into a place where he doesn't have to order his food and wait for it he becomes wholly irremediable.

One of these young men was recently invited to take dinner with a friend who lived in a suburban town. He accepted with an alacrity that was not understood until he began on the dinner.

The old passion for "home cooking" was so strong that he ate consciously and long, to the amazement and delight of the hostess.

He complimented everything that was served and asked himself the question, which has never yet been answered, "Why can't they do things this way in a restaurant?"

As he and his friend were chatting over the coffee he began to fumble around his saucer as if in search of something.

"What are you looking for?" asked the friend.

"The check,"

"Then he remembered where he was and wished he could disappear through the floor. He says he will reimburse before invading another private family.—Chicago Record.

**The Surprise of It.**

She was a dainty and beautiful thing as she slipped into the shoe store.

"I want a pair of shoes," she said to the clerk.

"For yourself?" inquired the smiling man.

"Yes."

"What number, please?"

"Four."

The clerk's eyes flew open. "I beg pardon," he gasped.

"I said No. 4," she repeated in a tone of slight annoyance.

"For yourself?" still queried the astounded clerk.